



**TOWN OF CHESAPEAKE CITY**  
108 Bohemia Avenue  
Chesapeake City, Maryland 21915  
410.885.5298

2/20/2020

Delores G. Kelley, Chair  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East Wing  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

## **WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

Bill: SB 975

Frank Vari, Councilman  
Town of Chesapeake City

**The Town of Chesapeake City is in Support of the passage of SB 975.**

Attachments:

- Personal letter
- Town's request

February 20, 2020

Re: SB 975

Dear Delores G. Kelley,

I was a lifelong member of PNC Bank, despite a few name changes along the way, such as County Bank and the Bank of Delaware. Despite my loyalty of about sixty years, when PNC decided to leave Chesapeake City, their response to me as I tried to talk Corporate Headquarters into reconsidering, was don't waste your breath and time; it's done we are leaving. They left, two and half months and they were gone. I and others in our community felt betrayed, where was their loyalty.

The nearest PNC Banks were located South of Town in Galena, MD 15.8 miles and 22 min. away, North of Town in Elkton, MD 5.8 miles and 10 minutes away and East of Town in Middletown, DE 11.1 miles and 20 minutes away.

The Town of Chesapeake City needed a full service Financial Institution to serve our residents, businesses and the Municipality of Chesapeake City. I started a campaign to find one. In the meantime, we had to choose a bank and quickly, time was of the essence. It was quite the undertaking to move everything to another bank. We choose Howard Bank which was the closest to our Town; they were located on Rt. 213 south of Rt. 40 in Elkton, MD. To my surprise after adjusting to the procedures from a new bank we received a notice from their Corporate Headquarters, just one year later, that they were closing the branch we were banking with. Here we go again! We are still banking with Howard Bank in Rising Sun, MD, however, its thirty plus minutes one way. This is a waste of time and money.

In my search to find a bank to replace the empty PNC location, I spoke to all the banks in our area including Howard, Hartford, Columbia, and M&T, asking if they were interested in re-establishing a branch in Chesapeake City. Their response was that they were not interested in discussing or to committing to such a request. The only one interested in the idea was APGFCU. The week before Christmas in 2017, I received a call that they signed a lease agreement with the owner to establish a branch in Chesapeake City. It took a few months with some alterations to the building. They opened about three months later in 2018, on RT. 213 just south of the Chesapeake City Bridge. After a Grand Opening, they were open for business. Residents and businesses were delighted. Soon, the Town of Chesapeake City began to inquire about changing over from Howard Bank to APGFCU and we ran into a problem, we were told that there was a law on the books that Municipalities were not allowed to join credit unions.

Members of the Finance Committee, we feel that Municipalities should have the right to choose where they bank for the best interest of the citizens we represent.

With thirty plus States already having such a change in the law allowing Municipalities to belong to credit unions, I implore you to support this request favorably.

#Note: Loyalty seems not to matter for Corporate, Don't Waste Your Breath, My loyalty does. Since then I pulled everything out of PNC including Savings, Checking, Money Markets, Debit & Credit Cards, Equity Loans and Financial Investments. APGFCU is our Financial Institution in Chesapeake City and I support it, as they say I am all in.

Thank You for your Consideration,



Frank Vari  
100 Third St.  
Chesapeake City, MD 21915